

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 112605

FOR HIRSCH

FOL RPT TEL AVIV 3450 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN CAIRO
DAMASCUS JERUSALEM 16 MAY 77 QUOTE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3450

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF DMC LEADER MEIR AMIT

1. POLITICAL OFFICER ATTENDED INTERVIEW DMC LEADER
MEIR AMIT GAVE MAY 13 TO SMALL GROUP OF FOREIGN
JOURNALISTS. AMIT SQUEEZED IN SESSION BETWEEN CAMPAIGN
APPEARANCES. MUCH OF INTERVIEW COVERED FAMILIAR
GROUND IN BACKGROUNDING DMC'S ORIGIN AND PROGRAM;
HOWEVER, FOLLOWING WAS OF INTEREST.

2. IN ILLUSTRATING THE ATTITUDE WHICH THE DMC IS
ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE, AMIT REFERRED TO RABIN'S TV
APPEARANCE LAST MONTH ANNOUNCING HIS RESIGNATION.
RABIN HAD SAID THAT HE WAS STEPPING DOWN "FOR THE
GOOD OF THE PARTY."HE DID NOT MENTION HIS COUNTRY.
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AMIT DEPLORED THIS MIXING OF PRIORITIES.IN THE
SAME VEIN,HE CRITICIZED THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FOR
CONTRIBUTING TO INFLATION; HE FELT INFLATION IS
THE NUMBER ONE ECONOMIC PROBLEM AND MUST BE
SOLVED BEFORE THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PICTURE
CAN BE IMPROVED. HE ALLEGED THAT AS A CAMPAIGN
PLOY, TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE "THEY NEVER HAD IT

SO GOOD,"FINANCE MINISTERRABINOWITZ IS PUMPING A BILLION NEW POUNDS INTO THE ECONOMY EVERY MONTH. HE ESTIMATED THAT THIS SUM CONTRIBUTES THREE OR FOUR PERCENT MONTHLY TO INFLATION. PART OF THE SAME PICTURE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY IS THE GROWING NATIONAL DEBT. AMIT SAID HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT PERES ACTUALLY EXPECTS (OR DESIRES) TO BE PRIME MINISTER: HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY FACE AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION. MANY OF THE IRRESPONSIBLE BORROWINGS WILL COME DUE IN JUNE AND AMIT CANNOT SEE HOW THEY CAN BE COVERED.

3. AMIT WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE SHAPE OF A FUTURE COALITION. AS FAR AS THE DMC IS CONCERNED,THE FINAL DECISION REGARDING PARTICIPATION IS IN THE HANDS OF THE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HE COULD NOT DISCERN ANY DOMINANT POLITICAL COLORATION IN THE CC. OF THE 120 MEMBERS,ABOUT 20 WERE SHINUI PEOPLE (THE PROTEST GROUP THAT EARLY ON JOINED YADIN'S NEW PARTY), 19 CAME IN WITH SHMUEL TAMIR, AND 15 ARE FROM AMONG THE FORMER LABOR PARTY MEMBERS THAT JOINED WITH AMIT.THE REST ARE UNKNOWN QUANTITIES.

4. AMIT'S BRACKET (IN USING THIS PHRASEOLOGY HE ALLUDED TO AN ARTILLERY TERM) FOR THE DMC'S ELECTION RESULTS IS BETWEEN 12 AND 18 SEATS.
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HE SAID HE WOULD REGARD 15 SEATS AS WELL WORTH HIS "INVESTMENT." NOTING THAT THE GENERAL EXPECTATION IS THAT THE WELL-OILED PRTY MACHINES OF THE ALIGNMENT AND LIKUD CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE IN HIGH GEAR DURING THE LAST DAYS OF THE CAMPAIGN, HE SAID THAT HE HIMSELF HAD RECEIVED THAT MORNING A FORM LETTER SIGNED BY PERES TO VOTE ALIGNMENT. AMIT'S IDEAL COALITION WOULD INCLUDE THE DMC, THE ALIGNMENT (WITH OR WITHOUT MAPAM) AND THE LIBERAL PARTY AFTER IT HAD SPLIT FROM THE LIKUD.

5. COMMENT: AMIT RESIGNED FROM MANAGING HISTADRUT'S CONGLOMERATE KOOR INDUSTRIES IN JANUARY TO JOIN THE DMC.HE IS CREDITED WITH ACCOMPLISHING THE TURN-AROUND OF THE FIRM FROM AN AILING DEFICIT-RIDDEN EMBARRASSMENT TO HISTADRUT TO A PROFITABLE,EXPANDING ENTERPRISE ACCOUNTING FOR 25 PERCENT OF ISRAEL'S INDUSTRIAL

OUTPUT. NUMBER THREE ON THE DMC LIST, SHOULD THE
DMC BE IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT AMIT WOULD ALMOST
CERTAINLY RECEIVE A PORTFOLIO--PROBABLY COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY. HIS COMMENTS ABOUT INFLATION AND
THE NATIONAL DEBT SEEM EXAGGERATED, FROM
INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US.
DUNNIGAN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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